

(Start of Belt #17)

May I ask one more question, then I will leave it alone.

SPEAKER: Please do.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But I think it is a very serious issue. In fact, I know that it is.

SENATOR MARVEL: I wouldn't be standing up here if I didn't think it was a serious...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But that's not (inaudible), I didn't want the Speaker to cut me off in the interest of time.

SPEAKER: Senator Chambers, there may be some other gubernatorial candidates who want to speak but you are entitled to one more question.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I have to respond to that. I'll tell you what. In view of the way the Governor is trying to use his whip on the Legislature, I think the Legislators ought to be happy to have somebody run the ball for them against that man over there, wherever he sits. As a matter of fact, Senator Marvel, but Senator Marvel, you said....

SENATOR MARVEL: Excuse me, but I think he was referring to you in regard to this argument but go right ahead.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OK. Here is the real point that I am trying to get to. If the statute says nothing with reference to any religion, then people are free to practice that religion however they choose, so long as the practice of that religion does not bring harm to those people that the state had the power and the duty to protect. I think the state has the power and the duty to protect children. If an adult wants to do anything based on his or her religion that doesn't bother anybody else, that's fine. But where children are concerned, the state ought not intrude and say that a blanket of protection is going to be given to some adults who for whatever reason say that a child who is sick is not going to be given medical attention.

SENATOR MARVEL: Well, you are making certain assumptions in regard to certain religions which are not necessarily true. I think that's the problem. I can understand your statement. As far as I'm concerned, that particular statement that you made in regard to children being sick is not accepted by certain religions. So they agree with you... they disagree with your basic premise and that, you know. I am not going to argue with your premises, right or wrong, because that is up to your conscience, not up to...it's not up to me to judge you.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: Yes, sir.

SPEAKER: Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President and members of the body, Senator Marvel gave a defense of this amendment but he also suggested he would have no opposition to having this bill laid over, and I would suggest that I'd like to see this bill passed over among other things until we can get an Attorney General's opinion on this matter because among other things, of course, the Constitution says we are to pass no law in reference to religion, the U.S. Constitution, that is, and I would like to ask the Attorney General's opinion on this matter and, also, make some information available to the Senators that I do not wish to disclose at this time. Thank you.